

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

## **Galway Ring Road: Minister promises decision timeline after Connolly pushes for update**

Transport Minister Darragh O'Brien has agreed to pursue an update on when the long-awaited Galway City Ring Road will finally get the green light, after Dep John Connolly pressed him on the issue.

The Fianna Fáil Galway West TD raised the matter of the ring road during Dáil Questions. Noting how the project has endured “prolonged delays in the planning and assessment system”, he asked why no decision has been forthcoming since the re-submission of the planning application in October 2023.

“For more than two years, there has been no certainty on when a final decision will be made by An Coimisiún Pleanála,” said Dep Connolly. “That followed a three and a half assessment by An Bord Pleanála, which failed in the judicial review process. That is nearly six years of an assessment process for a piece of infrastructure badly needed within Galway, especially as there's traffic chaos on a daily basis.”

Dep Connolly said this continued delay is “holding back our City”, such as the National Transport Authority being unable to devise the new Transport Strategy for Galway until a decision is made on the ring road.

“The people of Galway deserve the same clarity and certainty afforded to other major transport projects,” said Dep Connolly. “Government says it supports this essential infrastructure. Successive governments have committed to building it. Now we need a timeline. Galway has waited long enough.”

In response, Minister O'Brien said the Government “want to see this road built” as it is “critical for Galway and the surrounding areas”. He added that it was “a matter of regret that it's taken so long”. The Minister concluded by informing Dep Connolly that he will “seek an update as to when we can expect a final decision” on the Galway City Ring Road.

“I welcome Minister O'Brien's commitment, following my intervention, to seeking an immediate update on when a final decision can be expected on the ring road,” said Dep Connolly. “However, I will not be satisfied with just a timeline update. I want to see action on this issue and a positive outcome that will see the ring road - more than a quarter of a century after it was first proposed - finally get the green light for construction to start.”

**ENDS**

**For more information or to arrange an interview with Cllr John Connolly on this issue,  
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